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personal supervision. The agent of the Bluefields Steamship Company at this port received directions by mail from its head office in New Orleans to bring passengers to New Orleans, as the Louisiana State board of health had rescinded their resolution requiring vessels bringing passengers to be detained at the quarantine station five days, as far as Bluefields was concerned. Neither Dr. L. A. Wailes, the representative of the Louisiana State board of health, nor I having received any such information, I informed the agent to that effect. He considers his directions mandatory and takes the risk of the ship being detained, hence the 17 passengers, copies of whose certificates are inclosed, also those given to the ship's master.

Five deaths occurred in Bluefields for the week ended October 7, viz, 1 native, adult, male, of dysentery; 1 native, infant, male, tumor cancerosa; 1 native, infant, male, cause unknown; 1 native, child, male, disease of liver, and 1 native, child, female, of fever.

The sanitary condition of this port and vicinity continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTO RICO.

Report of transactions at Ponce during September, 1900.

PONCE, P. R., *October 1, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 29, 1900. I also inclose the monthly report of inspection of immigrants and a summary of the work done in the month of September, 1900.

There has not been a great amount of work during the month. One vessel was held in quarantine but allowed to transact business. One trunk only was disinfected, coming from Barranquilla, Colombia. Four immigrants were inspected and passed.

Owing to the difficulty in getting the mortality reports at the odd period of every two weeks, hereafter, unless otherwise directed, I will make a monthly report of mortality as made to me by the city board of health. During September there were an even 500 deaths in the Ponce district. This is a diminution of 181 from the month previous.

I am making a report of the cause of this large death rate and will forward it to the Bureau as soon as completed.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Summary of transactions of Service during the month of September, 1900.

Total number of deaths reported during September, 1900.....	a 500
Total number of deaths reported during September, 1899.....	a 241
Total number of births reported during September, 1900.....	a 87
Total number of births reported during September, 1899.....	a 80
Number of vessels inspected during September, 1900.....	15
Number of vessels inspected during September, 1899.....	22

a These figures are for the city, plays, and surrounding district of Ponce.

Summary of transactions of Service, etc.—Continued.

Number of bills of health issued during September, 1900.....	17
Number of bills of health issued during September, 1899.....	25
Number of vessels in quarantine during September, 1900.....	1
Number of passengers inspected during September, 1900 (incoming).....	57
Number of passengers inspected during September, 1900 (in transit).....	145
Number of crew inspected during September, 1900.....	444
Number of pieces of baggage disinfected during September, 1900.....	1
Number of vaccination certificates stamped during September, 1900.....	15
Number of immigrants inspected during September, 1900.....	4
Rejections.....	0

Inspection of immigrants at Ponce during the week ended October 6, 1900.

PONCE, P. R., October 8, 1900.

SIR: I submit herewith report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended October 6, 1900: October 4, French steamship *Salvador*, from Fort de France and St. Thomas, with 1 immigrant.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Reports of immigrants inspected at the port of Ponce, P. R., during the month of September, 1900.

Total number of immigrants inspected, 4; number passed, 4; number certified for deportation on account of dangerous contagious or loathsome diseases or for other physical causes, none.

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report of transactions at San Juan and subports during September, 1900.

SAN JUAN, P. R., October 3, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of transactions of the Service at this port and at the 6 subports of Porto Rico, for the month of September, 1900:

San Juan.—Number of vessels inspected 20, of which 19 were passed, and 1, the Spanish steamship *Cataluna*, arriving on the 18th from Havana via Central and South American ports, was held in quarantine and the baggage of the local passengers disinfected. The ship sailed the following day, 19th. Eighteen pieces of baggage were disinfected during the month.

The provisional steamer *Julia* arrived on the 20th. She had been disinfected at Havana as usual.

A telephone system from the city office to the island was installed during the month, and has proven to be a source of great convenience.

The steam launch was coppered during the month, as previously reported. The work was performed in a satisfactory manner, and the additional weight of the copper (some seven hundred pounds) tends to give her the necessary ballast, which would otherwise have been required, and materially steadies her.

The work of clearing up the grounds at the island and making sundry minor repairs and improvements has progressed as well as could be expected under the existing circumstances, the daily rains having retarded outdoor work somewhat.